

Jeanine Pirro, District Attorney from Westchester County, N.Y.

"The vast majority of criminal prosecutions are brought by local prosecutors . . . That is the way it should remain . . . However, there are times when states are unable or unwilling to recognize and address fundamental issues vital to our society. And, when that time comes, the federal government must act. Hate crime is a civil rights issue, and the proper role of the federal government in controlling this menace should mirror federal action in other areas of civil rights . . . I maintain hope that immediate federal action on this pressing issue will encourage states . . . to enact legislation of their own . . ."—Excerpts from testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, May 11, 1999.

Laramie, Wyoming, Police Department

"When it comes to the families of hate crime victims, Congress needs to also be able to look these people in the eyes and say it is doing all it can. In all honesty, right now they cannot say this. There is much more they can do to assist us in helping these families—if they can only find the political will to do so . . . Yes, justice was served in the end during the Shepard investigation. But the Albany County Sheriff's office had to furlough five investigators because of soaring costs. If the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act were passed, this would never have happened . . ."—Excerpts from press statement made by Commander David O'Malley, chief investigator in the murder of Matthew Shepard, Sept. 12, 2000.

National Association of Attorneys General

"We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the passage of . . . the Hate Crimes Prevention Act . . . Although state and local governments will continue to have the principal responsibility, an expanded federal role in investigating and prosecuting serious forms of hate crimes is critically needed if we are to be successful in addressing and deterring these crimes in our nation. The amendment to 18 U.S.C. Section 245 would provide invaluable tools for the United States Department of Justice and the United States Attorneys to combat hate crimes effectively. Therefore, we strongly urge passage of this important hate crimes legislation."—Excerpts from letter signed by 31 State Attorneys General to Speaker Dennis Hastert, Majority Leader Bill Frist, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, April, 2006.

National Center for Women & Policing

" . . . I want to assure you of our support for the Hate Crimes Prevention Act . . . We realize the significance of this important piece of legislation."—Excerpts from letter from Chief Penny Harrington, Director, National Center for Women & Policing, to Elizabeth Birch, Human Rights Campaign, March 23, 2000.

National District Attorneys Association

"On behalf of the members of the National District Attorneys Association, I am writing to express our organization's support of . . . the 'Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2005.' . . . With local law enforcement and prosecutors investigating and prosecuting approximately 95 percent of the crimes committed such assistance would certainly provide state and local officials with the necessary tools to address crimes motivated by hate. The National District Attorneys Association supports [the bill] not only because of its proposal to provide additional resources and federal assistance to state and local authorities for the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes but also its recognition of the primacy of state and local ju-

risdiction over such crimes."—Excerpts from letter to The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, April 14, 2006.

Police Foundation

"The Police Foundation urges you to support . . . [the] Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act. Hate crimes are extremely debilitating to individuals, groups, and entire communities, and the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of these crimes present important challenges for local law enforcement . . . This legislation will be of valuable assistance to state and local agencies . . ."—Excerpts from letter to Members of Congress from Hubert Williams, Chairman of the Board, Police Foundation, July 26, 2004.

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SUPPORT FOR THIS LEGISLATION

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act is supported by thirty-one state Attorneys General and over 210 national law enforcement, professional, education, civil rights, religious, and civic organizations.

A. Philip Randolph Institute, AIDS National Interfaith Network, African-American Women's Clergy Association, Alliance for Rehabilitation Counseling, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Association for Affirmative Action, American Association of University Women, American Association on Mental Retardation, American Citizens for Justice, American Civil Liberties Union, American Council of the Blind, American Counseling Association, American Ethical Union, Washington Office, American Federation of Government Employees, American Federation of Musicians, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, American Foundation for the Blind, American Jewish Committee.

American Jewish Congress, American Medical Association, American Music Therapy Association, American Network of Community Options and Resources, American Nurses Association, American Speech-Language Hearing Association, American Therapeutic Recreation Association, American Psychological Association, Americans for Democratic Action, American Veterans Committee, And Justice For All, Anti-Defamation League, Aplastic Anemia Foundation of America, Inc., Arab American Institute, The Arc of the United States, Asian American Justice Center, Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Asian Law Caucus, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

Association for Gender Equity Leadership in Education, AYUDA, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Bi-Net, B'nai B'rith International, Brain Injury Association, Inc., Business and Professional Women, USA, Catholics for Free Choice, Center for Community Change, Center for Democratic Renewal, Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism, Center for Women Policy Studies, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Christian Church Capital Area, Church Women United, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Communication Workers of America.

Congress of National Black Churches, Consortium of Developmental Disabilities Councils, Cuban American National Council, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Disciples of Christ Advocacy Washington Network, Easter Seals, The Episcopal Church, Equal Partners in Faith, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Office for Government Affairs, Fair Employment Council of Greater Washington, Family

Pride Coalition, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Federally Employed Women, Feminist Majority, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Goodwill Industries International, Inc., Hadassah, Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association.

Hispanic National Law Enforcement Association, Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights First, The Indian American Center for Political Awareness, Interfaith Alliance, International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Association of Jewish Vocational Services, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, International Dyslexia Association, International Union of United Aerospace and Agricultural Implementations, Japanese American Citizens League, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Jewish Women International, JAC-Joint Action Committee, Justice for All, LDA, The Learning Disabilities Association of America, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Latino/a, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, LEAP—Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc., Learning Disabilities Association of America, League of Women Voters.

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Log Cabin Republicans, Major Cities Chiefs Association, MALDEF—Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund, MANA—A National Latina Organization, Maryland State Department of Education, Matthew Shepard Foundation, The McAuley Institute, National Abortion Federation, NAACP, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., NA'AMAT USA, NAKASEC—National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Inc., National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, National Asian Peace Officers Association, National Association for Multicultural Education, National Association of Commissions for Women, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

National Association for the Education and Advancement of Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese Americans, National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators, National Association of the Deaf, National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils (NADDC), National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), National Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Centers, National Association for Multicultural Education, National Association of People with AIDS, National Association of Private Schools for Exceptional Children, National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of Social Workers, National Black Police Association, National Black Women's Health Project, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Center for Victims of Crime, National Center for Women & Policing, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness, National Coalition of Public Safety Officers, National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), National Congress of American Indians, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, National Council of Jewish Women,